

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



THE POWER OF REMEMBERING

EPHESIANS 2:11-18

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



Paul writes exuberantly to help those of us who love Jesus more fully experience the grace and love God has lavished on us. In today's text, he encourages us to remember that we might more fully appreciate and celebrate who we are in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:11-18

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new

Ephesians 2:11-18

man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Remember the past – Before Jesus, we were in a world of hurt.

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Personally – Individually, each of us was spiritually dead. (2:1-3)

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2:1 *“And you were dead...”*

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Ethnically – Gentiles were distant from God – the Jews were the chosen people.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

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The Jews were chosen by God to be the people with whom He had a special relationship in order to reveal Himself and provide a Savior for everyone.

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- **Separated from Christ**

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- **Strangers to the covenants of promise**

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In summary:

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- Separated from Christ
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In summary:

- **Having no hope**

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In summary:

- Having no hope
- **Without God**

Ephesians 2:11-13

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Remember the past – Before Jesus, we were in a world of hurt.

Celebrate the present, because “now in Christ”, we enjoy all the benefits God promised the Jews!

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- **God’s work in each of us began before creation and extends into eternity. (1:1-23)**

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- God’s work in each of us began before creation and extends into eternity. (1:1-23)
- **God’s work in each of us produces a radical transformation. (2:1-10)**

Ephesians 2:1-7

¹ And you **were dead** in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴ **But God**, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by **grace you have been saved**—

Ephesians 2:1-7

⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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 - **Jesus is our peace**

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- **By the blood of Christ**
 - Jesus is our peace
 - **Made Jews and Gentiles one**

Ephesians 2:13-18

¹³ **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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Ephesians 3:4-6

⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Galatians 3:7-9

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

John 4:22

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

The POWER of remembering God's work in our lives:

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- **Intensifies our appreciation of God's forgiveness**

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- **Escalates our commitment to unity in His body**